



Rare Animals of Louisiana



Pink Mucket

Lampsilis abrupta

Rarity Rank: S1/ G2

Identification:

- A rounded and slightly elongated mussel, inflated.
- Males shaped as above, females smaller and more square.
- The shell is thick and smooth, yellow-brown or yellow-green in color, lateral rays green and sometimes visible.
- Mother-of-pearl is white to salmon colored.
- Length is 4 inches.

Taxonomic comments:

- No recognized subspecies.
- This species was formerly known as *Lampsilis orbiculata*.

Habitat: Found in gravel and sandy substrates of large rivers.

Food habits:

- Mussels are filter feeders that continuously pump water through their siphons.
- Their diet is composed of the plankton and detritus that they are able to extract during this process.

Interesting facts: Females possess an “eyespot” hypothesized attract host fish to the vicinity so glochidia may attach themselves.

Reproduction:

- Sexes are separate.
- Females keep eggs from August until following June.
- Host fish for glochidia development include the largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, and walleye.





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Threats:

- Habitat destruction and changes in habitat quality.
- Pollution, and impoundments.
- Over harvesting.

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent erosion and siltation
- Follow Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones, possibly increasing width.

U. S. Range: AL, AR, IL, IN, KY, LA, MO, NY, OH, TN, WV

References:

Cummings, K.S., and C.A. Mayer. 1992. Field guide to freshwater mussels of the Midwest. Illinois Natural History Survey Manual 5.

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